

Water: It's Essential to Life. MCSE Works to Keep it Affordable.

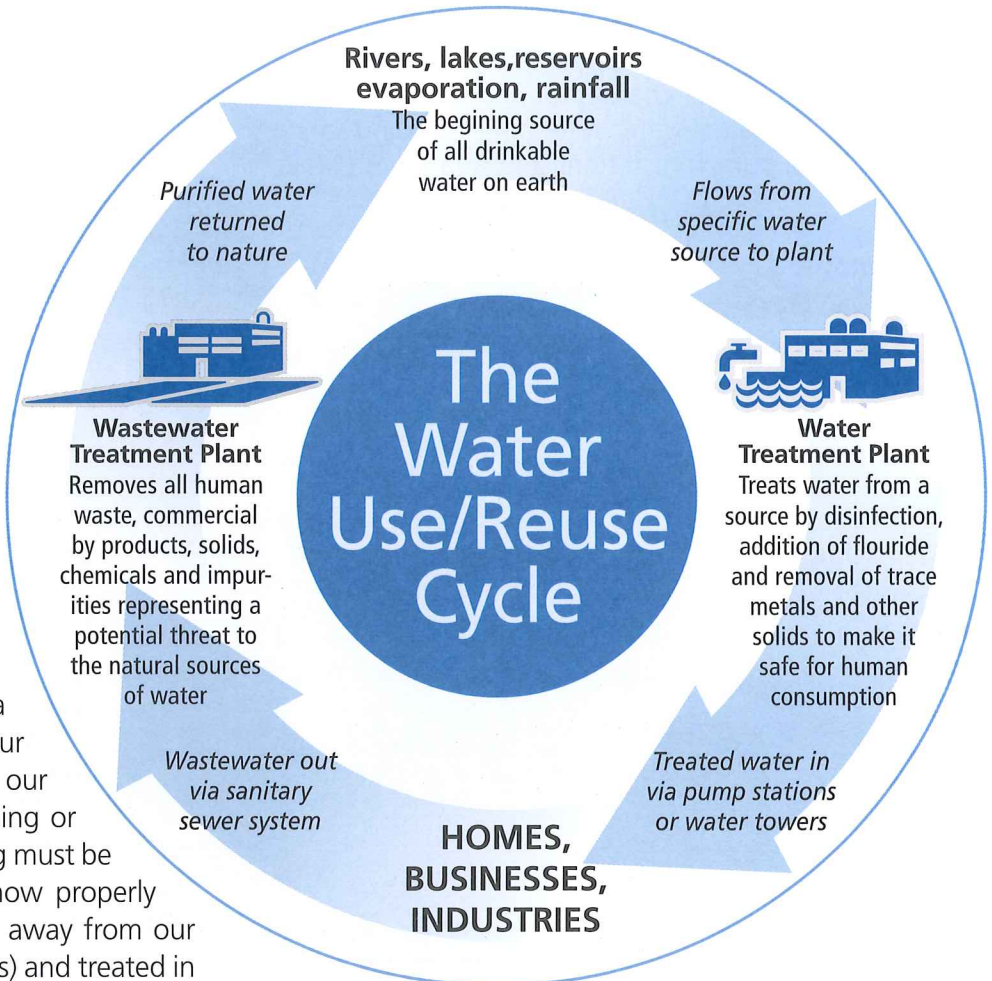
It's a simple fact that human beings cannot survive without access to safe, healthful water. If this most basic need is not met, then all other issues we face — no matter how important they may seem — will be immaterial. Furthermore, the supply of usable water on planet Earth is finite. We cannot create "new" water, but only use and reuse what is already here.

Think about this use/reuse process for a moment. Treated water flows into our homes and is either consumed or used in our daily activities — cooking, cleaning, bathing or disposal of human waste. Then, something must be done with all of this "used" water — now properly called wastewater. It has to be conveyed away from our homes (as well as businesses and industries) and treated in such a way that it is no longer contaminated and can safely be returned to nature — where the use/reuse cycle begins again.

Without this process, there would soon be no usable water on the planet, and life would not be possible. Fortunately, effective methods of treating wastewater on a large scale have been developed.

This is where your Mahoning County Sanitary Engineering Department comes in. It's important to remember that clean water comes at a cost. It's our job to not just treat wastewater, but to do so in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. We need to not only keep our costs manageable, but those of our 40,000+ customers as well. Without these efforts, the future will be uncertain for all of us.

Here are four areas where MCSE is working to ensure that future by controlling costs:



Planned improvements

We constantly evaluate all aspects of our wastewater treatment systems, and plan improvements that will make our operations as lean and cost-efficient as they can be. For example, we're making improvements to our sewer lines and pumping stations that will make it possible to eliminate our treatment plant in New Middletown. Waste formerly treated at that facility will be conveyed instead to our Boardman plant, which will be upgraded so that it can accept the increased flows. We'll save a great deal on the cost of operating the New Middletown plant, thus making a positive impact on our overall operations budget.

Growing the system.

It is simple math: the more customers we have, the more the costs of our operations are shared. Adding customers allows for better utilization of the collection, conveyance

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Understanding Your Sewer Rates


We are presently in the middle of a five-year MCSE rate plan that determines what our customers pay for sewer service. This plan went into effect in 2015.

Your monthly wastewater treatment charge consists of two components:

- The **user charge**: the charge for every 1,000 gallons of water used, conveyed through the sewer system for regulated treatment and returned to the environment.
- A **fixed monthly rate**: a monthly charge to all customers, not related the user charge, for mandatory improvements to the wastewater system — including sanitary sewer lines, pumping stations and treatment plants.

The average MCSE customer (using 5,200 gallons of water per month) will pay \$51.43 monthly ($5.2 \times \$8.40 + \7.75) under the 2017 rate.

Here are the user charges and fixed monthly rates from now through 2019 and the monthly bills using this 5,200-gallon average:

	2017	2018	2019
 User rate	\$8.40	\$8.80	\$9.30
Fixed monthly	\$7.75	\$8.50	\$8.75
Average bill	\$51.43	\$54.26	\$57.11

The Sewer Rates provide the necessary revenues for the continuing operation of the Mahoning County Sanitary Engineering Department.

MCSE Projects

The Mahoning County Commissioners and the Sanitary Engineer are committed to infrastructure improvements in the Metropolitan Sewer District of Mahoning County. **Seen Below** are shovel-ready, under design and recently completed projects representing an investment of over \$30 million in the Mahoning County wastewater system.



1. Craig Beach Village

Major upgrades and improvements to treatment plant equipment and processes.

2. Lake Milton

Ongoing planning and design of sanitary sewer and water lines.

3. Austintown Township

New main sewer line on Pineview Dr.; will bring service to area and eliminate septic systems.

4. Meander Treatment Plant

Significant upgrades and improvements to equipment and treatment processes.

5. MCSE Administration Building

Renovations to Business Office in Youngstown.

6. Boardman Township

Plant improvements; sewer lining and manhole rehabilitation.

7. Beaver/Boardman/Springfield Townships

Pump station, sanitary sewer and force main improvements.

8. City of Campbell

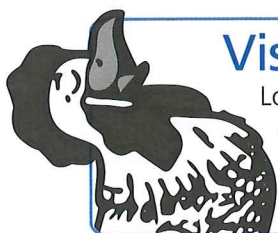
Treatment Plant bypass elimination project; new pump station; plant upgrades.

9. Poland Township

Replacement of three pumping stations and related force main lines.

10. New Middletown village

Treatment Plant elimination; force main and pump station replacement and improvements.



Visit Us at the Canfield Fair

Look for our booth located in the **Government Building** at this year's Canfield Fair.

MCSE personnel will be on hand to answer all of your questions about wastewater treatment services.

Questions? Comments?

Call MCSE at (330) 793-5514
Monday — Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Or visit our website at
sanitary.mahoningcountyoh.gov

The Importance of Infrastructure

Investments in and for a better Mahoning County

The Mahoning County Commissioners, through the Mahoning County Sanitary Engineering Department, are continuing in their mission of investing and reinvesting funds towards maintaining wastewater and water systems for those who choose to live and raise families, work and provide investments in businesses in our community. Through an aggressive program of multiple improvements to MCSE's collection, conveyance and treatment systems, the Commissioners are looking to the future of Mahoning County.

Ongoing projects currently in planning, design and construction total \$30,594,549. These projects are happening in many parts of Mahoning County, including Austintown, Beaver, Boardman, Poland and Springfield Townships; the City of Campbell; Craig Beach, New Middletown and Poland Villages; and the Meander Wastewater Treatment Plant.

As funding is key to a successful program for infrastructure improvements, the Mahoning County Commissioners have been at the forefront for obtaining dollars from several sources for these important projects.

Ohio Public Works Commission Grants	\$1,909,718
Ohio Public Works Commission Loans (0% interest for 20 years)	\$2,719,131
United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grants	\$4,965,500
United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Loans	\$12,473,000
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant	\$142,000
Sanitary Engineering Department Revenues (including Revenue Bonds)	\$8,385,200
Total infrastructure committed investments as of Summer 2017	\$30,594,549



David
Ditzler
President, 2017



Anthony
Traficanti
Vice-President, 2017



Carol
Rimedia-Righetti
Commissioner, 2017



Patrick T.
Ginnetti, PE., P.S.
Sanitary Engineer

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and treatment systems. We are committed — through regular maintenance and improvements — to ensuring that the system has the necessary capacity to address increased wastewater flows when new businesses or industry joins the system. Growth of the service area adds new customers and spurs further residential and commercial development. Our Pineview Drive project in Austintown is one example of this, and it has a dual benefit: adding customers, and eliminating environmental issues related to on-site septic systems.

Adapting new technology.

The basic process by which wastewater is treated so that it can be safely returned to nature has remained the same over the decades. But there are continuing improvements to the individual components of that process. An investment in new technology can pay big dividends in terms of

efficiency of operations. An example of this is MCSE's implementation of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA). This approach for operating complex facilities results in a tremendous cost savings. The SCADA system provides both local and remote monitoring and control, using coded signals over dedicated communication channels. These technologically adapted systems allow us to monitor, gather and process real-time data, as well as directly interact with devices such as sensors. The result: smarter communication of system issues that helps us minimize downtime.

Cost savings for customers.

Our customers have several programs available to them that can help them save on their wastewater treatment bill. See the back panels of this newsletter for details.



How to SAVE MONEY on Sewer Services

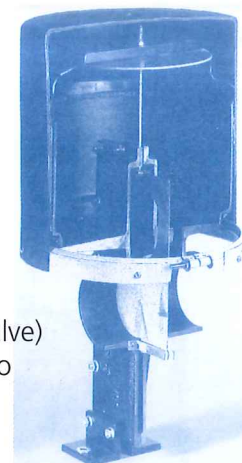


Homestead/Disability Fixed Sewer Rate Reduction

- **Eligible:** Customers at least 65 years of age (or permanently handicapped of any age) who own their own home AND are served by MCSE.
- **The program offers:** A reduction on your monthly sewer bill. Call 330-793-5514 for the current rate.

Gate Valve Program

- **Eligible:** Customers, particularly those with older homes, who experience basement flooding during heavy rain events because their storm water and sewer systems are interconnected.
- **The program offers:** Financial assistance to offset some of the costs of installing a backflow control device (gate valve) to separate these systems. In some cases the work may also involve the installation of a sump pump. You can receive up to \$2,500 in assistance for this work.



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How to SAVE MONEY on Sewer Services



Tap-In Fund

- **Eligible:** Customers in areas that have recently received sanitary sewer service for the first time and are required to tap into the system.
- **The program offers:** Up to \$9,000 to help defray the costs of mandatory tap-ins for any single household. The Mahoning County Commissioners established the Water and Sewer Tap-in Fund to make these funds available to county residents.

Second/Deduct Meter Program

- **Eligible:** Customers who frequently water their lawns, wash their cars and/or have gardens using a high volume of water not returned to the sewer system.
- **The program offers:** A second water meter, which allows water used outside of the home to be metered separately. In this way, your sewer bill will be based solely on the water that actually enters the wastewater treatment system.

Call (330) 793-5514 between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm weekdays
to learn more about any of these programs.